

rate key portion of the present volume, and as they have already been noticed in detail in 'The Auk'¹ it is unnecessary to comment upon them at length in the present connection. A few lines from them, however, may be here transcribed in illustration of the general character of the work here under notice: "In the present case we have a work that is not only elaborate in its pictorial details, simple in method of treatment, and comprehensive in scope, but also systematic and scientific in arrangement . . . The text is brief, the cuts occupying the greater part. . . . Besides the numerous cuts of structural parts, as bill, feet, tail, etc., each species is figured, either full length or half length, to show the most characteristic parts. . . . [The text] is limited to brief diagnoses, in which the distinctive features are emphasized by the use of special [heavy-face] type. . . . The author in his 'Key' to North American birds has certainly reduced the difficulty of identifying our birds to a minimum, and anyone so unfortunate as not to be able to identify his specimens in any stage of plumage, by Mr. Cory's 'Keys' may well give up the attempt in despair."

The nomenclature is strictly that of the A. O. U. Check-List, down to and including the Fourteenth Supplement (July, 1908), with a few rectifications in an insert facing the title-page, based on the Fifteenth Supplement (July, 1909). Each species is concisely characterized, including the immature and seasonal variations of plumage, and its general distribution is briefly stated, following which is its status as a bird of Illinois and Wisconsin, with, in the case of rare species, the citation of authorities for its occurrence. This part of the work appears to have been very carefully compiled, and rests on the solid foundation furnished by the various recent works on the birds of special localities within the general area here covered.

In general the work is exceedingly free from typographical errors, and in other respects is typographically excellent. We are hence the more surprised to meet (on p. 15) 'rectices' in place of rectrices, especially since attention was called to this error when it originally appeared in 1899, and it was corrected in a subsequent reprint of the original work.

In conciseness of statement, in fullness of detail, in profuseness of illustration, and in efficiency and utility as a local bird manual, Mr. Cory's 'Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin' is entitled to the highest praise, and we congratulate the author and the Field Museum on the addition of this valuable contribution to ornithological literature.—J. A. A.

Wrights' 'Birds of the Boston Public Garden.'²—In this little book of some 250 pages the author offers the results of his nine seasons' work (1900–1908) as an earnest, persistent and careful observer of the birds of a

¹ Vol. XVI, Oct., 1899, pp. 366, 367 (Water Birds); Vol. XVII, Jan., 1900, p. 78 (Land Birds).

² Birds of the | Boston Public Garden | A Study in Migration | By | Horace Winslow Wright | With an Introduction by | Bradford Torrey | and | Illustrations | [vignette] Boston and New York | Houghton Mifflin Company | The Riverside Press 1909 — 12mo, pp. xx + 238, and 8 photographic illustrations. \$1.00 net.

public garden in a large city. Following a short preface and an appropriate introductory note by Bradford Torrey, well-known to readers of 'The Auk,' are some fifty pages devoted to an interesting summary, in turn followed by an 'Annotated List of the Birds of the Boston Public Garden and incidentally of the Common in Migration, 1900-1908,' numbering 116 species and occupying about 150 pages. Few observers are so circumstanced, even if they possess the inclination, as to be able to devote regularly many hours each day during the spring months for so long a period to the study of the bird life of a city park, and Mr. Wright has done well to share the results of his pastime with other ornithologists and bird lovers. In autumn the garden was again regularly visited from the middle of October to the end of November, and also at intervals during the winter.

Following a description of the situation, area, and general character of the Garden, and his methods of investigation, certain generalizations are given, from which it appears that "in the case of twenty common resident species, selected for comparison, the first individuals in the series of years have arrived in the Garden from three to eight days later than in the surrounding country and that the range of first arrival of each of these species in the nine years has been from three to nineteen days later. . . . The testimony of the Garden seems, therefore, to substantiate very strongly Mr. Brewster's belief that in general the earliest arriving birds are summer residents and that the later arriving birds are migrants bound farther north." Mr. Wright has noted many interesting facts of general interest regarding the manner of migration, the influence of weather conditions upon the length of time migrating birds remain in the Garden, and how different sets of individual birds replace each other during the season of migration. Of special interest also are his daily censuses of birds seen, many of which are given, which include not only the species seen on a given day but the number of individuals of each. Thus on a rainy day in May (May 19, 1900) thirty species were recorded, of which thirteen species were warblers, represented by thirty-three individuals out of a total of fifty-six recorded. On May 16, 1905, thirty-eight species were observed, represented by ninety individuals of which thirty-seven were warblers, representing eighteen species. On May 19, 1907, even this large record was exceeded, but the maximum was on May 12, 1908, when one hundred and thirty-seven birds were noted. In each case, in these censuses, the author gives a list of the species seen and the number of individuals of each. The dates are also given of the larger migration-flights for the whole period of observation. The length of stay of individual birds is noted in a number of instances.

The annotated list is a systematic report on the author's observations of each of the 116 species recorded, year by year, for the whole period of observation, with detailed records of the visitations of the rarer species, and the earliest and latest records for the more common kinds, with such additional comment as may be required to set forth fully the manner of occurrence. In short, the author has set a standard which other observers may well follow with profit.—J. A. A.